UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

RHEA HOLLOMAN

17 Courtyard Lane, Apt. 2

Wilmington, DE 19802

CIVIL ACTION

CASE NO.:

Plaintiff,

v.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA 227 N. 18th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103

and

CATHOLIC HEALTH SERVICES, LLC

d/b/a Catholic Health Group

701 Lansdale Ave.

Lansdale, PA 19446

and

1412 LANSDOWNE OPERATING, LLC

d/b/a St. Francis Center for Rehabilitation

and Health Care

701 Lansdale Ave.

Lansdale, PA 19446

and

CENTER MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC

141-16 72nd Avenue

Flushing, New York 11367

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Rhea Holloman (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff" unless indicated otherwise) hereby complains as follows against Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Center Management Group, LLC, 1412 Lansdowne Operating, LLC, and Catholic Health Services, LLC (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Defendants" unless otherwise indicated), and avers as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff initiates the instant action to redress violations by Defendants of the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA" - 29 U.S.C. §§ 2601 *et seq.*). As a result of Defendants' unlawful actions, Plaintiff has suffered the damages as set forth herein.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court may properly maintain jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants' contacts with this state and this judicial district are sufficient for the exercise of jurisdiction over Defendants to comply with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice, satisfying the standard set forth by the United States Supreme Court in <u>International Shoe Co v. State of Washington</u>, 326 U.S. 310 (1945) and its progeny.
- 3. This action is initiated pursuant to a federal law. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania has original subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the claims arise under the laws of the United States. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims because they arise out of the same circumstances and are based upon a common nucleus of operative fact.
- 4. Venue is properly laid in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2), because Defendants reside in and/or conduct business in this judicial district and because a substantial part of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district.

PARTIES

- 5. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
 - 6. Plaintiff is an adult female with an address as set forth in the above caption.

- 7. Defendant Archdiocese of Philadelphia (*hereinafter* "Defendant AOP") is a non-profit regional religious organization operating schools, religious institutions, nursing facilities, and a host of other programs throughout the Philadelphia region.
- 8. Defendant Center Management Group (*hereinafter* "Defendant CMG") is headquartered at the above-captioned address and is in the business of providing health care management services throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York.
- 9. Defendant Catholic Health Care Services, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant CHCS"), which has been deemed "Stewards of the Catholic Tradition in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia" and was responsible for operating several of Defendant AOP's facilities, including the facility that Plaintiff worked, located at 1412 Lansdowne Ave, Lansdale Pennsylvania until in or about June of 2014. Since in or about June of 2014, Defendant CHCS is still deemed "Stewards of the Catholic Tradition in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia" but is now affiliated with Defendant CMG, as Defendant CMG entered into a sale agreement with Defendant AOP's for several of its nursing facilities in or about June of 2014 (including the facility at which Plaintiff worked). Upon information and belief the sale agreement between Defendant DMG and Defendant AOP was made final in the fall of 2014. Defendant CHCS still operates the facility at which Plaintiff worked, located at 1412 Lansdowne Ave, Lansdale Pennsylvania.
- 10. Defendant 1412 Lansdowne Operating, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant LO") is the nursing and rehabilitation facility at which Plaintiff worked. Until in or about the fall of 2014, Defendant LO was owned by Defendant AOP and operated by Defendant CHCS. Upon information and belief, in June of 2014 Defendant CMG entered into a sale agreement for the purchase of Defendant LO but the facility. Upon further information and belief the sale of

Defendant LO to Defendant CMG became final in the fall of 2014 and is still operated by Defendant CHCS.

- 11. Upon information and belief all Defendants overlapped in management and operations of the location at which Plaintiff worked during the time of her termination. Upon further information and belief, because of their interrelation of operations, common ownership or management, centralized control of labor relations, common ownership or financial controls, and other factors during the time of Plaintiff's termination Defendants were sufficiently interrelated and integrated in their activities, labor relations, ownership and management that they may be treated as a single, joint and/or integrated employer for purposes of the instant action.
- 5. Separate and apart Defendant CMG is also liable herein under the Successor Liability Doctrine as follows:
 - a) Defendant CMG has been on notice of Plaintiff's potential and actual legal claims, as Defendant CMG entered into a sale agreement with Defendant AOP in June of 2014 and upon information and belief had oversight over the management and operations of the location at which Plaintiff worked at the time of her termination in October of 2014. Defendant's aforementioned oversight and management of Plaintiff's work location was sufficient enough to know that Plaintiff was terminated for discriminatory and/or retaliatory reasons;
 - b) Defendant CMG has maintained the entire continuity of operations of Defendant AOP without interruption and performs the identical services

- for the same clientele with the same underlying employees who worked for Defendant AOP; and
- c) Defendant CMG is in the best and only position to provide relief sought herein as it is unclear at this stage of the litigation whether Defendant AOP is capable of providing any relief having divested itself of the business operations which employed Plaintiff and its assets therein.
- 12. At all times relevant herein, Defendants acted by and through their agents, servants and employees, each of whom acted at all times relevant herein in the course and scope of their employment with and for Defendants.
- 13. Defendants are "employers" within the meaning of the FMLA because at all times relevant herein, Defendants have employed at least fifty (50) or more full-time employees within the present or preceding calendar year and engages in a business that affects interstate commerce.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 14. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
 - 15. Plaintiff is an adult female.
- 16. Plaintiff worked for Defendants for approximately five (5) years until Defendants eventually terminated her employment in or about October of 2014 (discussed further *infra*).
- 17. During her employment with Defendants, Plaintiff worked full-time as a License Practical Nurse.
- 18. While employed with Defendants, Plaintiff requested intermittent time off from work to care for her daughter's serious health condition.

- 19. Even though Plaintiff would inform management each time that she was calling out of work for her daughter's serious health condition, Defendants never informed Plaintiff of her individualized FMLA rights; thus, Defendants failed to follow proper notice, designation, and informational regulations required by the FMLA.
- 20. It was not until Plaintiff was disciplined in or about late Summer of 2014 for her absences (related to her daughter's health condition) that Plaintiff's Director of Nursing, one Julia Cao, informed Plaintiff of her individualized FMLA rights.
- 21. In or about late Summer of 2014, Cao informed Plaintiff that John Chatman (Defendants' Administrator) was upset that she had been missing time for her daughter's health condition and that she could apply for FMLA to protect her job while taking such leave.
- 22. Shortly after speaking with Cao regarding her ability to seek FMLA, Plaintiff requested FMLA paperwork from Defendants' management.
- 23. Approximately three (3) weeks before her termination from Defendants (as discussed *infra*), Plaintiff submitted her FMLA paperwork to Defendants' Human Resources Department for approval.
- 24. Less than two (2) weeks after submitting her FMLA paperwork to Defendants' Human Resources Department (as discussed *supra*), Plaintiff was informed by Defendants' management that she was being suspended because she was "disrespectful to a supervisor."
- 25. Plaintiff was never told the circumstances surrounding the event that led to her aforementioned suspension, who specifically she was disrespectful to, and was given no opportunity to participate in any investigation that Defendants allegedly conducted.
- 26. After being suspended for a period of approximately 10 days without any communication from Defendants' management, Plaintiff was finally informed that her

6

employment with Defendants was terminated because "administration said that [her] services were no longer needed."

27. Plaintiff maintains that she was never disrespectful to any supervisor and believes that she was really terminated because she requested FMLA leave for her daughter's serious health condition.

Count I <u>Violations of the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA")</u> (Interference & Retaliation - Wrongful Termination & Wrongful Suspension) -Against All Defendants-

- 28. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 29. Plaintiff was an eligible employee under the definitional terms of the FMLA, 29 U.S.C. § 2611(a)(i)(ii).
- 30. Plaintiff requested leave from Defendants, her employers, with whom she had been employed for at least twelve months pursuant to the requirements of 29 U.S.C.A § 2611(2)(i).
- 31. Plaintiff had at least 1,250 hours of service with the Defendants during her last full year of employment.
- 32. Defendants are engaged in an industry affecting commerce and employs fifty (50) or more employees for each working day during each of the twenty (20) or more calendar work weeks in the current or proceeding calendar year, pursuant to 29 U.S.C.A § 2611(4)(A)(i).
- 33. Plaintiff was entitled to receive leave pursuant to 29 U.S.C.A § 2612 (a)(1) for a total of twelve (12) work weeks of leave on a block or intermittent basis.
- 34. Plaintiff requested and utilized FMLA-qualifying leave on an as needed basis to care for her daughter's serious health condition, primarily depression.

- 35. Defendants' management exhibited hostility towards Plaintiff's needs for FMLA-qualifying leave.
- 36. Defendants committed interference and retaliation violations under the FMLA by:

 (1) suspending Plaintiff for requesting and/or exercising her FMLA rights and/or for taking FMLA-qualifying leave; (2) terminating Plaintiff for requesting and/or exercising her FMLA rights and/or for taking FMLA-qualifying leave; (3) by considering Plaintiff's FMLA leave needs in making the decision to suspend and/or terminate her; and (4) by failing to inform Plaintiff of her individualized FMLA rights and issuing her discipline for taking FMLA-qualifying leave on a intermittent basis.
- 37. These actions as aforesaid constitute interference and retaliation violations of the FMLA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Court enter an Order providing that:

- A. Defendants are to be prohibited from continuing to maintain their illegal policy, practice or custom of discriminating/retaliating against employees and are to be ordered to promulgate an effective policy against such unlawful acts and to adhere thereto;
- B. Defendants are to compensate Plaintiff, reimburse Plaintiff and make Plaintiff whole for any and all pay and benefits Plaintiff would have received had it not been for Defendants' illegal actions, including but not limited to past lost earnings, future lost earnings, salary, pay increases, bonuses, medical and other benefits, training, promotions, pension, and seniority. Plaintiff should be accorded those benefits illegally withheld from the date she first suffered retaliation/interference/discrimination at the hands of Defendants until the date of verdict;

C. Plaintiff is to be awarded liquidated damages, as permitted by applicable law, in

an amount determined by the Court or trier of fact to be appropriate to punish Defendants for

their willful, deliberate, malicious and outrageous conduct and to deter Defendants or other

employers from engaging in such misconduct in the future;

D. Plaintiff is to be accorded any and all other equitable and legal relief as the Court

deems just, proper and appropriate, including but not limited to, emotional distress and/or pain

and suffering damages (where legally permitted);

E. Plaintiff is to be awarded the costs and expenses of this action and reasonable

legal fees as provided by applicable federal and state law:

F. Any verdict in favor of Plaintiff is to be molded by the Court to maximize the

financial recovery available to the Plaintiff in light of the caps on certain damages set forth in

applicable federal law; and

G. Plaintiff's claims are to receive trial by jury to the extent allowed by applicable

law. Plaintiff has also endorsed this demand on the caption of this Complaint in accordance with

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b).

Respectfully submitted,

KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI, P.C.

By:

Ari R. Karpf, Esquire Attorney for Plaintiff 3331 Street Road

Two Greenwood Square, Suite 128

Bensalem, PA 19020

Dated: June 9, 2015

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

RHEA HOLI	OMAN	•	CIVIL ACTION	
V.	OWAIN	: :		
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHI	LADELPHIA, et al.	:	NO.	٠.
filing the complaint and so side of this form.) In the designation, that defendan	Case Management I erve a copy on all defer to e event that a defer to shall, with its first parties, a Case Management	rack Des fendants. Idant doe tappearar agement	ay Reduction Plan of this court, couns ignation Form in all civil cases at the ti (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the res not agree with the plaintiff regarding ace, submit to the clerk of court and ser Frack Designation Form specifying the igned.	me of everse g said
SELECT ONE OF THE	FOLLOWING CA	SE MAN	AGEMENT TRACKS:	
(a) Habeas Corpus - Case	es brought under 28	U.S.C. §	2241 through § 2255.	()
(b) Social Security - Case and Human Services of			sion of the Secretary of Health ity Benefits.	()
(c) Arbitration - Cases re	quired to be designa	ted for ar	bitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()
(d) Asbestos – Cases invo exposure to asbestos.	lving claims for per	sonal inju	rry or property damage from	()
commonly referred to	as complex and that	need spe	acks (a) through (d) that are cial or intense management by ed explanation of special	()
(f) Standard Management	- Cases that do not	fall into	any one of the other tracks.	(X ₁)
6/10/2015	_Ari R, Karpf		Plaintiff	
Date	Attorney-at	-law	Attorney for	
(215) 639-0801	(215) 639-497	0	akarpf@karpf-law.com	
Telephone	FAX Numb	er	E-Mail Address	

(Civ. 660) 10/02

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to assignment to appropriate calendar,	be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the p	urpose of
Address of Plaintiff: 17 Courtyard Lane, Apt 2, Wilmington, DE 19802		*****
Address of Defendant: 227 N 18th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103/701 Lands	sale Ave, Lansdale, PA 19446/141-16 72nd Ave, F	lushing, NY 11367
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Defendants place of business (Use Reverse Side For	Additional Space)	
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation	and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock	2
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(e		,
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No Ø .	
RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:	
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:		
1. Is this case related to properly included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one	year previously terminated action in this court?	
1. 15 this base tolking to properly monador it all outline multiported out postering or writing one	Yes D No C	
Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior action in this court?	suit pending or within one year previously terminated	• •
	Yes□ No□	•
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier terminated action in this court?	Yes No	
· ·	-	
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rigi	hts case filed by the same individual?	;
•	Yes□ No□	
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)		-
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:	
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. D Insurance Contract and Other Contracts	
2. □ FELA	2. D Airplane Personal Injury	
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. Assault, Defamation	•
4. □ Antitrust	4. □ Marine Personal Injury	
5, © Patent	5. D Motor Vehicle Personal Injury	•
6. Labor-Management Relations	6. O Other Personal Injury (Please specify)	
7. R Civil Rights	7. Products Liability	
8. Habeas Corpus	8. Products Liability - Asbestos	
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases	
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)	
11. □ All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify)		
ARBITRATION CERT (Check Appropriate C		
ı, Ari R. Karpf , counsel of record do hereby certi		
□ Pursuant to Lecal Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; □ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the su	m of
Company of the second of the s	i D1/0404	
DATE: 6/10/2015	ARK2484	ŷ.
Attorney-at-Law NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	Attorney I.D.# 91538 ore has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.	
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not religiod to any case now pending or except as noted above.	within one year previously terminated action in this court	
DATE: 6/10/2015	ARK2484	
DATE: 0/10/2013 Attorney-at-Law		
CTV 600 (5/2012)	Attorney 1.D.# 91538	

*>JS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 4¢ civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

	INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)	1 Food of Military
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	·	DEFENDANTS
HOLLOMAN, RHE	ž.A.	ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA, et al.
(b) County of Residence		County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Philadelphia
• • •	lame, Address, Telephone Number and Email Add	
		NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE
	erutti, P.C., 3331 Street Road,	LAND INVOLVED.
	Square, Suite 128, Bensalem, 639-0801, akarpf@karpf-law.co	Altorneys (If Known)
FA 19020, (213)	053-000 i, akai pi@kai pi-law.co	
II. BASIS OF JURIS	DICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES(Place an "X" in One Box for Plainti
☐ 1 U.S. Government	₩ 3 Federal Question	(For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant)
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citizen of This State
C 2 US Commune	☐ 4 Diversity	
Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	of Business In Another State
	,	Citizen or Subject of a 3 3 Foreign Nation 5 6 6
IV NATURE OF SU	T (Place as "X" in One Box Only)	Foreign Country
THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE	HERRY STUDIESTICATION IS ENGINEER STEELY	SKR ER TOTTAKIOTANING SONKLUREN ERMENDYAKKATOKAN KRENER RUSAKOANITAKAAKAN PERESE
☐ 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 362 Personal Injury	
☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractice	e G 625 Drug Related Seizure 28 USC 157 G 430 Banks and Banking
140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability 365 Personal Injury - 320 Assault, Libel & Product Liability	of Property 21 USC 881 G 450 Commerce
150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment		
☐ 151 Medicare Act	☐ 330 Federal Employers' Injury Product	D 650 Airline Regs. D 830 Patent Corrupt Organizations
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability Liability	□ 660 Occupational □ 840 Trademark □ 480 Consumer Credit
Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	☐ 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPERT ☐ 345 Marine Product ☐ 370 Other Fraud	TY Safety/Health
153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability D 371 Truth in Lending	Sto Securities/Commodities/
of Veteran's Benefits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 380 Other Personal	710 Fair Labor Standards
160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage	
☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability 385 Property Damage 360 Other Personal Product Liability	
☐ 196 Franchise	Injury	Language Act (Cl 865 RSI (405(g)) (Cl 891 Agricultural Acts
LEAST PROPERTY	SERVICE VIOLENTING TO SERVICE VIOLENTING VIO	SEEDERAL TYX SUITS OF 892 Economic Stabilization Act
210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 510 Motions to Vacate 図 442 Employment Sentence	
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	M 442 Employment Sentence 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus:	☐ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. or Defendant) ☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act Security Act ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party ☐ 895 Freedom of Information
C 240 Torts to Land	Accommodations 3 530 General	26 USC 7609 Act
245 Tort Product Liability	☐ 444 Wolfaro ☐ 535 Death Penalty	☐ 900Appeal of Fee Determination
290 All Other Real Property	☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - ☐ 540 Mandanus & Othe Employment ☐ 550 Civil Rights	ner
	446 Amer. w/Disabilities - 555 Prison Condition	Alion Detainee
	Other	☐ 465 Other Immigration State Statutes
	440 Other Civil Rights	Actions
	an "X" in One Box Only)	Appeal to District A Reinstated or 5 Transferred from 6 Multidistrict 7 Judge from
	anoved from 3 Remanded from 5 ate Court Appellate Court	Represed another district Litigation Magistrate
	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are	e filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	ON Family and Medical Leave Act "FN Brief description of cause:	√ILA" 29USC2601
	Violations of the FMLA.	·
VII. REQUESTED IN		
COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	JURY DEMAND: No No
VIII. RELATED CASI	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE	DOCKET NUMBER
Freshman		
Explanation:		and and you seemed on an annual section in the
6/10/2015		Note that the second se
DATE	SIGNATURE OF	FATTORNEY OF RECORD

nt Save As...

Export as PDF

Retrieve PDF File

Reset